CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 22 JUNE 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE ON 17 JUNE 2000 BY MR. VLADIMIR V. PUTIN, PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AND THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made on 17 June 2000 by Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (1925 Geneva Protocol) and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Biological Weapons Convention.

I should be grateful if this statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Vasily SIDOROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Head of delegation of the
Russian Federation to the
Conference on Disarmament

STATEMENT MADE ON 17 JUNE 2000 BY MR. VLADIMIR V. PUTIN, PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

This year the international community is observing two important events: the seventy-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (1925 Geneva Protocol) and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Biological Weapons Convention.

These multilateral agreements play a substantial role in the international security system. Our country firmly adheres to the provisions and principles which they contain. On 22 May 2000, a federal bill on the withdrawal of the reservations to the Geneva Protocol made by the USSR in 1928 was tabled in the State Duma.

In turn, we are counting on the scrupulous observance of these agreements by the other States parties as well.

As a depositary country, Russia has constantly advocated the establishment of effective arrangements for monitoring compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention and is taking an active part in the negotiations to develop a protocol to strengthen and improve the Convention.

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